with a view to discourage banks from trading in such securities.

(c) and (d). RBI have reported that banks have also not been prohibited from investing funds in the Certificate of Deposits.

Policy on linking trade to labour standards or environmental issues under W.T.O.

4487. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy on the issues of linking trade to labour standards or environmental issues as developed countries intend to make this a major affair at the forthcoming Singapore conclave of the World Trade Organisation;

(b) whether the Government have also taken any positive steps in this regard to refurnish its image; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c). At the forthcoming Singapore Ministerial Conference (SMC) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) scheduled to be held in December, 1996, a report on trade and environment is to be placed before the Ministers for further directions. India is actively participating in the preparation of this report in the Committee on Trade and Environment of the WTO.

The linkage of trade to labour standards is a new issue proposed to be raised at the SMC by some developed countries. However, a large number of developed and developing countries including India, are opposed to this issue being included in the SMC agenda.

Supply of Coal to Chandrapur Thermal Power Station

4488. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Chandrapur Thermal Power Station in Vidarbha is linked to Western Coalfields Limited;

(b) if so, the requirement of coal for this power station from Western Coalfields Limited per day;

(c) whether the supply of coal has come down during the month of August, 1996;

(d) if so, whether the production of coal in the said coalfields has gone down significantly and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Coal India Limited to meet the commitment of coal supplies to power stations of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The linkages to thermal power stations are sanctioned by the Standing Linkage Committee on the recommendations made by the Central Electricity Authority after taking into account availability, transport constraints, targets for power generation etc. Linkages are accorded for monthly quantities and not on a daily basis. From April to June, the monthly linkage to this power station was 8.50 lakh tonnes per month. For July to September the linkage sanctioned was 7.50 lakh tonnes per month.

(c) In the month of August against the prorata linkage of 5.81 lakh tonnes upto 24th August, 96. the supplies for the same period have of the order of 3.61 lakh tonnes (provisional) for the following reasons;

(i) Owing to poor wagon unloading performance by the power house, railways had regulated the supply of coal to Chandrapur TPS and diverted this coal to other power houses of Maharashtra State Electricity Board such as Nasik and Parli.

(ii) Due to derailment in the MGR system operated by the power house, it could lift only 60% of the linked quantity.

(iii) Less by this system lifting of coal by this power house through their own ropeway.

(iv) Non lifting of linked quantity by road by the power station authorities.

(v) During August, 1996 Unit No. 6 (500 MW) was under maintenance resulting in less consumption of coal.

(d) No, Sir. Production of coal in WCL has exceeded the target fixed for the period April-August 1996. The production during this period also shows a growth of 12% over the production achieved during the corresponding period last year.

(e) Coal supplies to power houses is accorded highest priority. Supply of coal to the power sector is monitored regularly by an Inter-Ministerial Group and corrective action is taken wherever necessary.

Registration of Fake Companies

4489. SHRI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fake Companies detected by the Registrar of Companies during each of the last three years;

(b) the action taken by the Government against these companies;